



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/979,521	11/19/2001	Alan F. Savicki	492.166	6386

27023 7590 12/03/2002

THE GLAD PRODUCTS COMPANY
P.O. BOX 24305
OAKLAND, CA 94623-1305

EXAMINER

BRITTAIN, JAMES R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3677

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/979,521

Applicant(s)

SAVICKI, ALAN F.

Examiner

James R. Brittain

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-71 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 11, 12, 14-17, 20-27, 31-35, 37-40, 43-46, 53, 54, 56-59 and 62-69 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-10, 13, 18, 19, 28-30, 36, 41, 42, 47-52, 55, 60, 61, 70 and 71 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609 A(1) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 11, 12, 14, 22-27, 31-35, 37, 43-46, 53, 54, 56, and 64-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Richardson et al. (US 5301394).

Richardson et al. (figures 1-4) teach closure device comprising: a first fastening strip; a second fastening strip a slider adapted to be slidably disposed on the fastening strips and facilitating the occlusion of the fastening strips when moved towards a first end thereof and facilitating the deocclusion of the fastening strips when moved towards a second end thereof, the fastening strips and the slider having a longitudinal X axis and a transverse Y axis, the transverse Y axis being perpendicular to the longitudinal X axis,

Art Unit: 3677

the fastening strips and the slider having a vertical Z axis, the vertical Z axis being perpendicular to the longitudinal X axis, the vertical Z axis being perpendicular to the transverse Y axis, a first detent comprising a notch at the first end of the fastening strips 18 19 where the material has been removed, the slider comprising a housing having a protrusion 21b, 22b for engaging the first detent of the fastening strips when the slider is moved to the first end of the fastening strips thereby preventing removal of the slider from the first end of the fastening strips in the longitudinal X axis. See col. 4, lines 28-53:

In the present invention the slider 10 is provided with two detent elements 21b and 22b located on opposite
30 sides of the separator finger 9 which are spring loaded toward it. When the slider 10 is at any location along the zipper 11 other than the fully closed position at the end of the fastener, as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, the spring-loaded detent elements 21b and 22b ride against
35 the outside surfaces of the flanges 18 and 19 respectively. When the slider 10 reaches the fully closed position at the closed end of the fastener, and the separator finger 9 is within the notch where the flanges 18 and 19 have been removed, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the
40 detent elements 21b and 22b spring inward against the sides of the separator finger 9. These detent elements 21b and 22b resist an attempt to move the slider 10 in the bag-opening direction because this requires that they be forced back over the flanges 18 and 19. The force re-
45 quired to overcome this detent locking action will be determined by the spring force of the detent elements 21b, 22b and the geometry of the separator finger 9. In the embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIGS. 1-4, the spring-loaded detent elements 21b, 22b are
50 molded as part of the sidewalls 21 and 22 from which they project. This type of construction can be utilized where the slider includes hinged sidewalls or where the sidewalls are separate elements.

As to claims 31-33, the slider of Richardson et al. is fully capable of being utilized on fastener strips with a second detent at the second end.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 16, 21, 39, 58 and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richardson et al. (US 5301394) in view of Stolmeier et al. (US 5871281).

Richardson et al. (figures 1-4) teach closure device comprising: a first fastening strip; a second fastening strip a slider adapted to be slidably disposed on the fastening strips and facilitating the occlusion of the fastening strips when moved towards a first end thereof and facilitating the deocclusion of the fastening strips when moved towards a second end thereof, the fastening strips and the slider having a longitudinal X axis and a transverse Y axis, the transverse Y axis being perpendicular to the longitudinal X axis, the fastening strips and the slider having a vertical Z axis, the vertical Z axis being perpendicular to the longitudinal X axis, the vertical Z axis being perpendicular to the transverse Y axis, a first detent comprising a notch at the first end of the fastening strips 18 19 where the material has been removed, the slider comprising a housing having a protrusion 21b, 22b for engaging the first detent of the fastening strips when the slider is moved to the first end of the fastening strips thereby preventing removal of the slider from the first end of the fastening strips in the longitudinal X axis. See col. 4, lines 28-58:

Art Unit: 3677

In the present invention the slider 10 is provided with two detent elements 21b and 22b located on opposite sides of the separator finger 9 which are spring loaded toward it. When the slider 10 is at any location along the zipper 11 other than the fully closed position at the end of the fastener, as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, the spring-loaded detent elements 21b and 22b ride against the outside surfaces of the flanges 18 and 19 respectively. When the slider 10 reaches the fully closed position at the closed end of the fastener, and the separator finger 9 is within the notch where the flanges 18 and 19 have been removed, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the detent elements 21b and 22b spring inward against the sides of the separator finger 9. These detent elements 21b and 22b resist an attempt to move the slider 10 in the bag-opening direction because this requires that they be forced back over the flanges 18 and 19. The force required to overcome this detent locking action will be determined by the spring force of the detent elements 21b, 22b and the geometry of the separator finger 9. In the embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIGS. 1-4, the spring-loaded detent elements 21b, 22b are molded as part of the sidewalls 21 and 22 from which they project. This type of construction can be utilized where the slider includes hinged sidewalls or where the sidewalls are separate elements.

The difference is that the interengaging features are not of the arrowhead type.

However, Stolmeier et al. (figure 4) teaches that it is well known to utilize the arrowhead type of interengaging features 18H so as to better secure the closure. It would have been obvious to modify the fastener of Richardson et al. so that the interengaging features are of the arrowhead type in view of Stolmeier et al. (figure 4) teaching that it is well known to utilize the arrowhead type of interengaging features 18H so as to better secure the closure. As to claim 16, 39 and 58, it would have been obvious to modify the shoulders of the slider to Richardson et al. so as to utilize angled shoulders to guide the fastening strips in view of Stolmeier et al. (figure 11) teaching that it is desirable to have

Art Unit: 3677

the shoulders formed at an angle and thereby defining an angled shoulder axis so as to more easily move the slider.

Claims 15, 17, 20, 38, 40, 57, 59, and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richardson et al. (US 5301394) in view of Porchia et al. (US 5836056).

Richardson et al. (figures 1-4) teach closure device comprising: a first fastening strip; a second fastening strip a slider adapted to be slidably disposed on the fastening strips and facilitating the occlusion of the fastening strips when moved towards a first end thereof and facilitating the deocclusion of the fastening strips when moved towards a second end thereof, the fastening strips and the slider having a longitudinal X axis and a transverse Y axis, the transverse Y axis being perpendicular to the longitudinal X axis, the fastening strips and the slider having a vertical Z axis, the vertical Z axis being perpendicular to the longitudinal X axis, the vertical Z axis being perpendicular to the transverse Y axis, a first detent comprising a notch at the first end of the fastening strips 18 19 where the material has been removed, the slider comprising a housing having a protrusion 21b, 22b for engaging the first detent of the fastening strips when the slider is moved to the first end of the fastening strips thereby preventing removal of the slider from the first end of the fastening strips in the longitudinal X axis. See col. 4, lines 28-58:

Art Unit: 3677

In the present invention the slider 10 is provided with two detent elements 21b and 22b located on opposite sides of the separator finger 9 which are spring loaded toward it. When the slider 10 is at any location along the zipper 11 other than the fully closed position at the end of the fastener, as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, the spring-loaded detent elements 21b and 22b ride against the outside surfaces of the flanges 18 and 19 respectively. When the slider 10 reaches the fully closed position at the closed end of the fastener, and the separator finger 9 is within the notch where the flanges 18 and 19 have been removed, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the detent elements 21b and 22b spring inward against the sides of the separator finger 9. These detent elements 21b and 22b resist an attempt to move the slider 10 in the bag-opening direction because this requires that they be forced back over the flanges 18 and 19. The force required to overcome this detent locking action will be determined by the spring force of the detent elements 21b, 22b and the geometry of the separator finger 9. In the embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIGS. 1-4, the spring-loaded detent elements 21b, 22b are molded as part of the sidewalls 21 and 22 from which they project. This type of construction can be utilized where the slider includes hinged sidewalls or where the sidewalls are separate elements.

The difference is that the shoulders do not clearly have a shoulder axis parallel to the X-axis. However, Porchia et al. (figures 1, 2, 8) teaches fastener structure with a slider 10a having shoulders 22a, 22b, 21a, 21b that have linear edges that define a shoulder axis parallel to the X-axis for easier movement of the slider. It would have been obvious to modify the fastener of Richardson et al. so that the shoulders do clearly have a shoulder axis parallel to the X axis in view of Porchia et al. (figures 1, 2, 8) teaching fastener structure with a slider 10a having shoulders 22a, 22b, 21a, 21b that have linear edges that define a shoulder axis parallel to the X axis for easier movement of the slider. As to claims 20 and 62, it would have been obvious to modify the fastener of Richardson et al. so as to use a U-shaped type of interengagement in view of Porchia

Art Unit: 3677

et al. suggesting such a connection 16, 17 to be well known to provide strong engagement.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-10, 13, 18, 19, 28-30, 36, 41, 42, 47-52, 55, 60, 61, 70, and 71 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

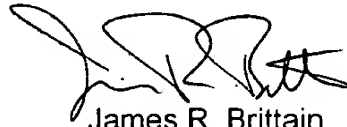
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents of Herrington et al. (US 5189764), Laguerre (GB 1225153), and Herrington (US 5067208) teach pertinent fastener structure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Brittain whose telephone number is 703-308-2222. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 5:30 to 2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on 703-306-4115. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 3677

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. R. Brittain', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James R. Brittain
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

JRB
November 27, 2002